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INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

7 OCT 1975

[redacted] Secretary

American Congress for Irish Freedom
295 Main Street
Buffalo, New York 14203

Dear [redacted]

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Reference is made to correspondence between you and this Agency concerning your appeal under the Freedom of Information Act, as amended, for records in our files on the American Congress for Irish Freedom.

Pursuant to the authority delegated to me in accordance with section 1900.51(a) of Chapter XIX, Title 32 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as amended, I have reviewed your request in light of your appeal.

After review, I have determined that the following documents may be released to you in their entirety:

- (1) Copy of letter dated January 3, 1974 from James C. Heaney, Chairman, Attorney's Committee, to the Director, Central Intelligence.
- (2) Copy of letter dated April 30, 1974 from James C. Heaney to the Director, Central Intelligence.
- (3) Copy of letter dated May 11, 1974 from the Assistant to the Director, Central Intelligence, to James C. Heaney.
- (4) Copy of letter dated September 24, 1974 from James C. Heaney to the Director, Central Intelligence with enclosure.
- (5) Copy of letter dated October 29, 1974 from James C. Heaney to the Director, Central Intelligence.
- (6) Copy of letter dated December 30, 1974 from the Assistant to the Director, Central Intelligence to James C. Heaney.

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Our files also contain documents set forth below which I have determined may be released to you in deleted form:



- (1) Indices search request, undated--a deleted portion of this document contains the name of the requester. This information concerns intelligence sources and methods which the Director of Central Intelligence has the responsibility to protect from unauthorized disclosure in accordance with section 102(d)(3) of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended (50 USCA 403(d)(3)), as implemented by section 6 of the CIA Act of 1949 (50 USCA 403g). The release of this information is denied, therefore, on the basis of exemption (b)(3). Also deleted from this trace request is information under Item 1 which does not relate to your organization and is not responsive to your request.
- (2) Two TWX investigative requests dated January 18, 1974 and March 7, 1974--the deleted portions of these documents contain the names of other individuals, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. This information is being withheld under exemption (b)(7)(C).
- (3) Investigative report dated January 21, 1974--a deleted portion of this document also contains information concerning intelligence sources and methods which the Director of Central Intelligence has the responsibility to protect from unauthorized disclosure. This information is denied under exemption (b)(3). Item 1 above sets forth the statutory authority for this assertion. Exemption (b)(7)(C) is asserted since a portion of the deleted information sets forth individual names, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Exemptions (b)(7)(D) and (b)(7)(E) are also asserted since the disclosure of the information to which these exemptions apply would disclose the identity of confidential sources, confidential information or investigative techniques and procedures. Also deleted from this report is information which does not relate to your organization and is not responsive to your request.

I have determined further that the following documents must be denied in their entirety:

- (1) An advisory memorandum dated January 29, 1974 to the Director of Central Intelligence. As you may be aware, exemption (b)(5) was included in the Act in order to protect the confidentiality of the decisionmaking process within the Federal Government. Since this memorandum is advisory in nature. I have determined that the disclosure of this information should be denied under exemption (b)(5) of the Act.

- (2) A one-page Agency records search dated January 21, 1974--denied under exemptions (b)(3), (b)(7)(C) and (b)(7)(E). The remainder, after deletion, would leave an unintelligible document. A detailed explanation of these exemptions is set forth under Item 3 of the documents furnished in deleted form.

Our files also contain two investigative summaries, one undated and one dated January 21, 1974. The information contained therein was received from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and a request is being made of that agency for a determination as to whether any of this information may be released.

In accordance with paragraph (4)(B) of subsection (a) of the Freedom of Information Act, you have the right to request judicial review of this denial in a United States district court.

Sincerely,

/s/ J. F. Blake

John F. Blake
Chairman
Information Review Committee

Enclosures

January 3, 1974

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/07/07 : CIA-RDP89B00552R000800030004-5

NATIONAL EXECUTIVES

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James C. Hickey
Buffalo, N. Y.

Secretary

Craig Moore
Dayton, Ohio

Treasurer

Pat Shields
New York, N. Y.

Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

The Washington Star News recently reported that the CIA has on its payroll several journalists, distorting world wide news, including reports in American newspapers. One of those employed is Mr. Seymour Freidin who does a considerable amount of writing for Boston and other U. S. papers.

Such activities within U. S. continental borders are a violation of federal law. Would you kindly explain to us why your agency has engaged in this kind of activity. We would also like to point out that Mr. Freidin has authored a number of anti-Irish and pro-British reports on the situation in Northern Ireland.

It would appear that your agency has financed this type of misinformation in U. S. newspapers. We believe this situation calls for a complete investigation. Our Board of Directors has asked me to write you concerning this matter so that we can obtain an explanation for your activities in this area.

I would appreciate learning what action you will take in this matter. Meanwhile, I would appreciate any explanation the CIA might have to justify the aforementioned type of operation.

Respectfully yours,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Chairman

Attorney's Committee
514 Ellicott Square Bldg
Buffalo 3, New York

(b)(6)

✓ OGC SUBJECT Publications

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Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I enclose a letter dated January 3rd which was sent to your office. I regret to note that you have never had the courtesy to reply.

There is considerable evidence that the C.I.A. has been used to carry out surveillance of Irish Americans who speak out on British policy in the north of Ireland. This is a most serious matter and obviously such activity is in violation of federal criminal statutes.

Why you have not seen to reply to our letter I do not know but I am writing you once again requesting your cooperation. I should advise you that unless we hear from you promptly, I shall ask members of Congress to initiate a congressional investigation of C.I.A. activities with reference to the Irish American community. As an American citizen, I do not condone the Watergate approach to governmental activities, especially the activities of the C.I.A.

Your agency has done much to destroy public confidence in government and I would strongly urge you to adopt new policies. I await your reply.

Respectfully yours,

[Redacted Signature]

(b)(6)

[Redacted Box]

Encl.

(b)(6)

22 MAY 1974

[redacted] Chairman

Attorney's Committee
514 Ellicott Square Building
Buffalo 3, New York

Dear [redacted]

Your letter of 30 April to the Director has been referred to me for reply. At the outset, I apologize that we have failed to answer your earlier letter.

As to your substantive points, this Agency has not carried out surveillance of Irish Americans who speak out on British policy in the North of Ireland. We do not have journalists on our payroll for the purpose of distorting world-wide news and we have not financed anti-Irish and pro-British reports on the situation in North Ireland.

Yours very truly,

[redacted]
Angus MacLean Thuermer
Assistant to the Director

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September 24, 1974

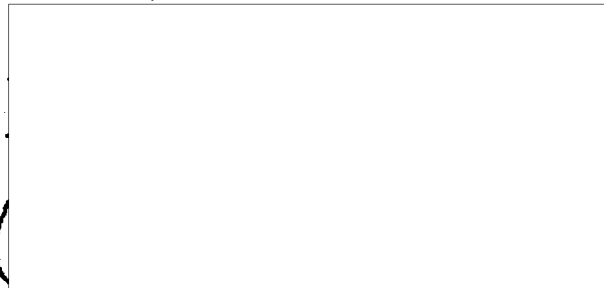
Mr. William Colby, Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I enclose herewith a news clipping from the Irish Press of September 11th last which indicates that the CIA is operating in Northern Ireland and actually assisting British military units. This statement was recently made by a former senior CIA official, Mr. Victor Marchetti in a recent London interview.

Please advise me what the CIA is doing in Northern Ireland and why it is assisting British military units. I would appreciate a quick response.

Respectfully yours,



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Enclosure

I-19

1. Press

9-11-74

CIA 'are active in Ireland'

MR. VICTOR Marchetti, the co-author of a book on the Central Intelligence Agency which the U.S. Government tried unsuccessfully to halt being published, said in London yesterday that until 1959 Ireland was not important to the CIA but he believed that the agency was a lot more active there now.

He said U.S. undercover agents would mainly be trying to find out where arms were coming from and what connections there were with some of the Middle East radical groups.

"We have people working side by side with you people (British) on the research level as well as on the operational level," he said.

Mr. Marchetti is a former senior CIA official. His training included parachuting, planting "bugs", how to carry out burglaries and how to open letters without showing they had been tampered with, as well as "infiltrating heavily guarded 'border areas'".

His book, *The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence*, has been published with many black portions, ruled out by court injunction and is still the subject of appeals in the United States.

Unity man

October 29, 1974

Mr. William Colby, Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I noted with interest certain press reports which indicated that according to CIA officials formerly with your organization, that the CIA is active in Northern Ireland in assisting British military units.

Would you please confirm or deny this fact. It is a little difficult to comprehend how American interests are served by the CIA becoming involved in Northern Ireland under present circumstances. CIA operations were referred to in a recent story published by the Irish Press in Dublin as well as the Washington Star, a few weeks ago.

I would appreciate a prompt reply.

Respectfully yours,

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(b)(6)

Enc. IRISH PRESS news story

Civil Rights Committee
295 Main Street
Buffalo, New York

30 December 1974

[redacted]
514 Ellicott Square Bldg.
Buffalo, N.Y. 14203

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your letter to Mr. Colby dated October 29..

You will understand, I trust, that there are, in this day and age, continual allegations about this, that or the other supposed "operation" involving the CIA. The Director is charged by law with the protection of intelligence sources and methods. In consonance with this charge, it has been our tradition not to comment -- one way or the other -- on the spectrum of allegations about us.

I hope⁺ you will understand, therefore, how we cannot address ourselves to the matter which you have raised in your letter.

The Director is, of course, grateful to you for having shared your thoughts on the matter with him.

Sincerely,

/s/ Angus MacLean Thuerner

Angus MacLean Thuerner
Assistant to the Director



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